

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1.-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method of extruding individual polyhedron shaped slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂, said method comprising the steps of:

blocking a substantially rectangular shaped extruding slot in a die at an end of a cylinder of a dry ice extruding machine;

injecting said liquid CO₂ from said source into said cylinder of said dry ice extruding machine to form gaseous CO₂ (snow) and solid CO₂ therein;

degassing said cylinder to remove gaseous CO₂ through vents from said cylinder while forming said snow in said cylinder;

building a puck in said end of said cylinder having said extruding slot in said die by moving a pressure piston back and forth in said cylinder of said dry ice extruding machine during said injecting;

unblocking said extruding slot to allow dry ice to be extruded therethrough in the form of a continuous polyhedron shaped slab disposed outside of said cylinder;

breaking, outside of said cylinder, said extruded continuous slab of dry ice upon the length thereof reaching a predetermined distance to provide an individual slab of dry ice; and

repeating said breaking step to create as many of said individual slabs of dry ice as desired,

wherein at the outer end of said extruding slot a forming chamber with a substantially rectangular shaped forming slot therein for receiving said slab of extruded dry ice therethrough, said forming slot allowing said slab of extruded dry ice to set before said breaking step, and

~~The method of extruding a slab of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in Claim 4, wherein said a sizing mechanism movinges a sizing block adjacent and outside of said cylinder and said forming chamber for said breaking of said extruded dry ice in said predetermined length.~~

6. (Original) The method of extruding a slab of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in Claim 5, wherein said sizing mechanism is pneumatically operated and said pressure piston is hydraulically operated.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of extruding a slab of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in Claim 21, including a removable gate for said blocking and said unblocking of said extruding slot.

8. (Original) The method of extruding a slab of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in Claim 7, wherein said removable gate is activated by a gate cylinder.

9. (Original) The method of extruding a slab of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in Claim 8, wherein said removable gate is pressed against said extruding slot until a puck is formed in said cylinder.

10.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A dry ice extruding machine for extruding polyhedron shaped slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂, a source of power connecting to said dry ice extruding machine, said dry ice extruding machine comprising:

a frame;

at least one extrusion cylinder mounted on said frame;

a piston in said extrusion cylinder;

connection of power from said source of power to said piston to cause back and forth movement of said piston in said extrusion cylinder;

injection ports on said extrusion cylinder for injecting said liquid CO₂ into said extrusion cylinder and flashing said liquid CO₂ into gaseous and solid CO₂;

vents on said extrusion cylinder for venting said gaseous CO₂ from said extrusion cylinder;

a substantially rectangular shaped die mounted on a first end of said extrusion cylinder, said die having a slot therein for extruding a continuous polyhedron shaped slab of said solid CO₂ therethrough;

a blocking device for blocking said slot until a puck has formed in said first end of said extrusion of cylinder and thereafter removing said blocking device; and

a sizing mechanism for moving a sizing block~~breaking device~~, disposed outside of said extrusion cylinder, for breaking said extruded continuous slab upon the length thereof reaching a predetermined distance.

15. (Previously Presented) The dry ice extruding machine for extruding slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in claim 23 wherein said connection of power is a hydraulic cylinder driving said piston through a second end of said extrusion cylinder.

16. (Original) The dry ice extruding machine for extruding slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in claim 15 wherein said dry ice extruding machine includes a sensor for determining if said slab has reached a predetermined length and generating a sizing control signal, said sizing control signal activating a sizing mechanism to break said slab into said predetermined length.

17. (Previously Presented) The dry ice extruding machine for extruding slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in claim 16 wherein said die further includes a forming chamber with a rectangular shaped forming slot therein so that said slab can set before being broken into said predetermined length.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The dry ice extruding machine for extruding slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in claim 17 wherein said sizing mechanism is a block that moves adjacent and parallel to an outer face of said forming chamber to break said slab into said predetermined length, said block being pneumatically operated.

20. (Previously Presented) The dry ice extruding machine for extruding slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in claim 23 wherein said block device is pressed on outer opening of said slot to prevent escape of CO₂ therethrough while forming said puck.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51 including tapering the extruding slot.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 including tapering the extruding slot with an approximately 1° taper.

23. (Previously Presented) The dry ice extruding machine of claim 14 in which said substantially rectangular shaped die is tapered.

24. (Previously Presented) The dry ice extruding machine of claim 23 in which said tapered die includes an approximately 1° taper.